LISTING OF CLAIMS

1.   (Original) A method of loading data into a database system, comprising:

receiving an insert request to insert data into a table in a database system, where the insert request includes one or more links, and each link indicates a server connection and a storage location for data corresponding to the link;

creating a table entry in the database system;

opening the corresponding server connection for each received link;

requesting the data corresponding to each received link through the corresponding opened server connection;

receiving the requested data for each received link through the corresponding server connection; and

storing the received data in the table entry.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, comprising:

selecting a data storage facility within the database system to store the data indicated by the insert request; and

passing the insert request to a database worker task within a processing module associated with the selected data storage facility.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1, where at least two insert requests are processed in parallel.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1, where the table entry includes a field of a user defined type and the received data is stored in a user defined type object representing the user defined type field.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 1, where at least one link is a URL.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 1, where at least one link is an ODBC DSN.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 1, where the insert request includes a link string indicating the one or more links.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising parsing the link string to derive each of the links.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 1, where opening the corresponding server connection includes opening a connection across the Internet.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising storing at least some of the received data in a large object database related to the database system.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising passing the received links to a link constructor.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 11, where the link constructor creates the table entry, opens appropriate server connections, requests and receives data through opened server connections, and stores the received data in the created table entry.

13.   (Original) A method of loading data into a database system, comprising:

       obtaining one or more links, where each link corresponds to a respective member of a field in an entry in a table in a database system and to data to be stored for the corresponding field, and each link indicates a server connection and a storage location for the corresponding data; and

       providing a request to the database system to load data into the table, where the request includes the obtained links.

14.   (Original) The method of claim 13, where the request is an insert request.

15.   (Original) The method of claim 13, where the request is an update request.

16.   (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising creating a link string including each of the obtained links, and where the request includes the link string.

17.   (Original) The method of claim 13, where at least one link is a URL.

18.   (Original) The method of claim 13, where at least one link is an ODBC DSN.

19.   (Original) A computer program, stored on a tangible storage medium, for use in loading data into a database system, the program comprising executable instructions that cause a computer to:

    receive an insert request to insert data into a table in a database system, where the insert request includes one or more links, and each link indicates a server connection and a storage location for data corresponding to the link;

    create a table entry in the database system;

    open the corresponding server connection for each received link;

    request the data corresponding to each received link through the corresponding opened server connection;

    receive the requested data for each received link through the corresponding server connection; and

    store the received data in the table entry.

20.   (Original) The computer program of claim 19, further comprising executable instructions that cause a computer to:

    select a data storage facility within the database system to store the data indicated by the insert request; and

    pass the insert request to a database worker task within a processing module associated with the selected data storage facility.

21.   (Original) The computer program of claim 19, where at least two insert requests are processed in parallel.

22.   (Original) The computer program of claim 19, where the table entry includes a field of a user defined type and the received data is stored in a user defined type object representing the user defined type field.

23.   (Original) The computer program of claim 19, where at least one link is a URL.

24.   (Original) The computer program of claim 19, where at least one link is an ODBC DSN.

25.   (Original) The computer program of claim 19, where the insert request includes a link string indicating the one or more links.

26.   (Original) The computer program of claim 25, further comprising executable instructions that cause a computer to parse the link string to derive each of the links.

27.   (Original) The computer program of claim 19, where opening the corresponding server connection includes opening a connection across the Internet.

28.   (Original) The computer program of claim 19, further comprising executable instructions that cause a computer to store at least some of the received data in a large object database related to the database system.

29.   (Original) The computer program of claim 19, further comprising executable instructions that cause a computer to pass the received links to a link constructor.

30.   (Original) The computer program of claim 29, where the link constructor creates the table entry, opens appropriate server connections, requests and receives data through opened server connections, and stores the received data in the created table entry.

31. (Currently amended) A database system, comprising:

one or more data storage facilities for use in storing data composing records in tables of a database;

one or more processing modules configured to manage the data stored in the data-storage facilities; and

a database management component configured to load data into the data storage facilities [using] after receiving one or more links [received] in a request from a client system, where each link indicates a server connection and a storage location for the data to be loaded [corresponding to the link].

32. (Original) The database system of claim 31, where the request is an insert request.

33. (Original) The database system of claim 31, where the request is an update request.

34. (Original) The database system of claim 31, where the one or more data storage facilities store one or more objects of a user defined type for storing data loaded using links received in client requests.

35. (Original) The database system of claim 31, where at least one processing module includes executable instructions providing a database worker task configured to:

create a table entry in a data storage facility corresponding to the processing module including the database worker task;

open the corresponding server connection for each received link;

request the data corresponding to each received link through the corresponding opened server connection;

receive the requested data for each received link through the corresponding server connection; and

store the received data in the table entry.

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36.   (Original) The database system of claim 35, where the database management component is further configured to:

        select a data storage facility within the database system to store the data indicated by the client request; and

        pass the client request to the database worker task within a processing module associated with the selected data storage facility.

37.   (Original) The database system of claim 35, where the database management component is further configured to process at least two client requests including link strings in parallel.

38.   (Original) The database system of claim 31, where at least one link is a URL.

39.   (Original) The database system of claim 31, where at least one link is an ODBC DSN.

40.   (Original) The database system of claim 31, where at least one link indicates a server connection accessible to the database management component through the Internet.

41.   (Original) The database system of claim 31, further comprising a large object database connected to the database management component.

42.   (Original) The database system of claim 31, where the database management component is further configured to store the received links and provide the stored links upon request.

43.   (Currently amended) A method of loading data into a database system, comprising:
        receiving an [update] insert request to insert data into a table in a database system, where the insert request includes one or more links, and each link indicates a server connection and a storage location for data corresponding to the link;
        accessing an existing table entry in the database system;
        opening the corresponding server connection for each received link;
        requesting the data corresponding to each received link through the corresponding opened server connection;

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receiving the requested data for each received link through the corresponding server connection; and

storing the received data in the accessed table entry.

44. (Original) The method of claim 43, comprising:

selecting a data storage facility within the database system to store the data indicated by the update request; and

passing the update request to a database worker task within a processing module associated with the selected data storage facility.